

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 05934 01 OF 02 281623Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 SSO-00 PA-01 PM-05
/113 W

-----068692 281657Z /42

P 281609Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7010
INFO USDOEHQ WASHDC
USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 05934

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, TECH, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR TALKS WITH IRAN AND EGYPT

REF: (A) VIENNA 5832; (B) VIENNA 5485

1. SUMMARY: ON JUNE 27, MFA OFFICIAL NOTIFIED AMBASSADOR OFFICIALLY OF AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S TALKS WITH IRAN AND EGYPT CONCERNING STORAGE OF AUSTRIAN IRRETRIEVABLE NUCLEAR WASTE. NOTIFICATION WAS ACCOMPANIED BY REPEATED REQUESTS THAT U.S. MAINTAIN A "LOW KEY" REACTION TO ANY REPORTS ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT HIS REQUEST, I CALLED ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL REITBAUER JUNE 27, FOR WHAT PROVED TO BE A DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF AUSTRIA'S SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO ITS PROBLEM OF STORING NUCLEAR WASTE. REITBAUER SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM U.S. OFFICIALLY THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING HELD BETWEEN GOA AND GOVERNMENTS OF IRAN AND EGYPT REGARDING STORAGE OF AUSTRIAN IRRETRIEVABLE SPENT FUEL (SEE BELOW) AND TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE TOWARD THE TALKS SO AS TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 05934 01 OF 02 281623Z

AVOID JEOPARDIZING THE AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR REFERENDUM SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 5. HE RESTATED THAT AUSTRIA'S FIRST CHOICE STILL REMAINS THAT U.S. WOULD AGREE TO ACCEPT AUSTRIA'S NUCLEAR WASTE FOR PERMANENT STORAGE.

3. REITBAUER, WHO WAS FORMERLY AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO IAEA, SPOKE KNOWINGLY THROUGHOUT ABOUT COMPLEXITIES

OF NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE. WITH RESPECT TO IRANIAN NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID THEY WERE VERY COMPLICATED BUT WERE CONTINUING. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT THE COMPLICATIONS WERE. SINCE HE TALKED MUCH MORE ABOUT EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS, I ASSUME THAT PROSPECTS FOR EVENTUAL FINAL AGREEMENT ARE BETTER THERE.

4. REITBAUER STRESSED GOA IS NOT NOW ASKING FOR U.S. PERMISSION TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, ALTHOUGH HE KNEW IT WOULD BE NECESSARY IF FINAL AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH EGYPT. HE SAID GOA WAS FULLY AWARE OF AND IN AGREEMENT WITH U.S. POLICY ON PROLIFERATION AND WOULD WANT TO BE CERTAIN BEFORE SIGNING ANY AGREEMENT THAT EGYPT IS FULLY COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDS. GOA FOR NOW WANTS ONLY TO INFORM U.S. AND TO ASK U.S. TO BE VERY "LOW-KEY" IN REACTING TO ANY REPORTS ABOUT AUSTRIAN-EGYPTIAN TALKS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO SEPARATE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIANS BEING CONDUCTED BY MANAGEMENT OF ZWENTENDORF. THESE, HE STRESSED, ARE NOT VERY SIGNIFICANT. IT IS GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TALKS NOW GOING ON THAT ARE DECISIVE. THEY ARE DIFFICULT AND FAR FROM COMPLETION.

5. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, REITBAUER SAID THAT ONLY IRRETRIEVABLE WASTE STORAGE WAS INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID HE KNEW THAT UNREPROCESSED FUEL ELEMENTS MOST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENNA 05934 01 OF 02 281623Z

CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED BY U.S. TO BE SHIPPED TO MIDDLE EAST. NEGOTIATIONS, THEREFORE, PRESUPPOSE THAT AUSTRIAN SPENT FUEL WOULD BE REPROCESSED AT COGEMA WITH WHOM AUSTRIA NOW HAS AN AGREEMENT, WHICH PROVIDES THAT SHIPMENT OF AUSTRIAN SPENT FUEL FOR REPROCESSING AT COGEMA IS SUBJECT TO U.S. APPROVAL. HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE COGEMA AGREEMENT DEALT WITH PLUTONIUM LEFT AFTER REPROCESSING.

6. REITBAUER RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES TO GOA HOPES THAT U.S. WOULD MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE ON AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR MATTERS DURING MONTHS AHEAD, ESPECIALLY UNTIL AFTER NOVEMBER 5 REFERENDUM ON PUTTING ZWENTENDORF INTO OPERATION (REFTEL A). GOA EXPECTS THAT REFERENDUM WILL BE PASSED AND HE REFERRED TO "IDIOTS" WHO OPPOSED NUCLEAR POWER IN AUSTRIA WHEN CZECHOSLOVAKS ALREADY HAVE SEVERAL PLANTS ALONG THE AUSTRIAN BORDER WHICH PRESENT JUST AS MUCH POTENTIAL HAZARD TO AUSTRIA AS PLANTS IN AUSTRIA WOULD.

7. IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN A MORE PERSONAL COMMENT, REITBAUER SAID WITH CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS THAT AUSTRIA MUST HAVE NUCLEAR ENERGY. GOA IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED

ABOUT THEIR DEPENDENCE ON UNRELIABLE ENERGY SOURCES:
OPEC FOR PETROLEUM, THE SOVIET UNION FOR NATURAL GAS, AND
POLAND FOR COAL.

8. I CONFINED MY SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT
THAT THE AUSTRIAN REQUEST FOR U.S. RESTRAINT IN DISCUSSING
AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR MATTERS IN NEXT MONTHS WOULD BE CONVEYED
TO WASHINGTON.

9. COMMENT: THE GOA IS NOW TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A
SCENARIO TO ASSURE A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY IN THE CRITICAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 05934 02 OF 02 281624Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02

DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 SSO-00 PA-01 PM-05

/113 W

-----068722 281658Z /42

P 281609Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7011

INFO USDOEHQ WASHDC

USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 05934

NOVEMBER 5 REFERENDUM. IT WOULD BE MOST UNWISE IN MY
VIEW FOR THE U.S. TO BE DRAWN INTO WHAT PROMISES TO BE A
HIGHLY EMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN OVER THE PROS AND CONS OF THE
PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR POWER BY AUSTRIA. HOWEVER, THIS
DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE U.S. MIGHT NOT FIND IT NECESSARY
TO INTERVENE WITH THE GOA IF THE LATTER SHOULD ATTEMPT
TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE REFERENDUM BY OVERPLAYING
THE EGYPTIAN STORAGE POSSIBILITY AND/OR INSINUATING U.S.
APPROVAL. (IT IS SIGNIFICANT IN THIS CONTEXT TO RECALL
THAT NOTWITHSTANDING REITBAUER'S COMMENTS PARA 4, SOME
GOA OFFICIALS TAKE POSITION THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A RIGHT
OF CONTROL OVER IRRETRIEVABLE WASTE). END COMMENT.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR
POSSIBLE REPLY TO REITBAUER. WE WOULD ALSO
APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO THE U.S. POSITION ON POSSIBLE
STORAGE OF IRRETRIEVABLE NUCLEAR WASTE IN EGYPT IN

RESPONDING TO LIKELY QUERIES FROM OPPOSITION LEADERS,
SINCE PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION TO STARTING UP ZWENTENDORF
IS BASED ON WHAT ARE CONSIDERED TO BE UNRESOLVED SECURITY
QUESTIONS RE THE REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL AND THE
PERMANENT STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE. WOLF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 05934 02 OF 02 281624Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, RADIOACTIVE WASTES DISPOSAL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENNA05934
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-0867
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780610/aaaaaidi.tel
Line Count: 181
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f02077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 VIENNA 5832, 78 VIENNA 5485
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2131125
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR TALKS WITH IRAN AND EGYPT
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, MNUC, AU, IR, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f02077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014